

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18, 20 and 21 are active in this application. The claims have been amended to remove the non-elected subject matter in light of the finality of the Restriction imposed by the office. Claim 1 has also been amended to include the limitations of Claim 19. No new matter is added.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Marco et al. is respectfully traversed.

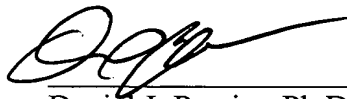
Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 19, which was not rejected. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The Examiner, on page 2 of the Official Action, indicates that the Information Disclosure Statements filed January 15, 2002 have been considered. However, a copy of the PTO Form 1449 was not attached to the Office Action or perhaps became separated from the Office Action when the Action was mailed to the undersigned. In any case, a copy of the signed PTO Form 1449 is requested for Applicants' records.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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